

TREATING, CLEANING AND MAINTAINING PVC FLOOR TILES

The regular cleaning and maintenance of all Fortelock floors is very important, not just in terms of hygiene and how they look, but also to extend their life. The following recommendations for cleaning and maintaining them are based on products from Dr. Schutz. This comes from many years of experience and keeping track with cleaning trends. Cleaning costs, or the intervals between cleaning, depend on the frequency of operation and degree of dirt. Given the varying conditions of cleaning, these are only recommendations.

⚠ WARNING: Preventive measures help keep the floor as clean as possible and therefore eliminate the need to remove dirt and stains. For example, building lobbies are cleaning zones in that they are meant to catch impurities from outside. These zones make it possible to minimize the amount of dirt brought into the building. The recommended length of the zone is at least 2-3 steps. This document also addresses preventive measures as part of the cleaning regime. If the maximum coefficient of friction is necessary, it's possible to apply a special anti-slip coating to the floor.

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

1. Avoid damaging the surface by never using abrasive disks (abrasive detergents, solvents, etc.)
2. Never use rubber caps (for the legs of chairs or other furniture). Instead, use PVC or polyethylene pads.
3. Regular cleaning is more convenient and effective than the occasional deep cleaning.
4. Use the recommended cleaning agents.
5. Always follow the instructions of the manufacturer of the cleaning products, as well as health and safety guidelines.
6. Choose soft brushes for rotary cleaning machines (bristles < 0.25 mm). Machines with equivalent brushes can be used as alternatives. Brushes with hard bristles are not recommended.
7. Solvents harm flexible floor coverings.
8. A huge amount of dirt from the outside can be minimized by using cleaning mats before entrances and cleaning zones in building lobbies.
9. We don't recommend using any aggressive agents for ordinary cleaning (e.g. products containing abrasives, alkalis, or high content of organic solvents and degreasing compounds).
10. If you have a rotary washer-dryer, use it. Use clean water and a pH-neutral product in a weak solution. We recommend the following products in order to ensure better cleanability and appearance.

OTHER PROVISIONS

These instructions were prepared by the representatives of the respective companies, and Fortemix can assume no guarantee for their cleaning and treatment products. In case of doubt, the instructions of the respective manufacturer or dealers for these products are vital. When using any products for cleaning and maintaining your floor, it is necessary to follow the instructions of the manufacturers of these products or seek technical advice from them.

Detailed information on how to clean the surface of DECOR PVC floor tiles from Fortelock are in the documents of the companies Fatra or Tarkett. An extract from these instructions are in the following paragraph.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

SERIES: LIGHT, INDUSTRY, INVISIBLE, XL, ECO, HOME DECOR

⚠ [FLOORING WITHOUT A PUR PROTECTIVE COATING]

CLEANING AFTER INSTALLATION / BASIC CLEANING

A newly installed floor needs to be thoroughly cleaned prior to using in order to remove all remnants of production and installation impurities. For smooth and slightly structured surfaces, use the cleaning product CC- Base cleaner R, diluted with water to between 1:5 and 1:10.

For less visible dirt, this concentration can be reduced according to the level of cleaning. Apply the cleaning solution evenly to the floor, allow it to work for about 10 minutes, then scrub the entire floor with a single brush rotary machine. Use a wet vac to suck up the dissolved dirt. Thoroughly neutralize the entire floor with clean water until all remnants of the cleaning solution have been removed. Avoid making "streaks" and large puddles of water on the floor while cleaning.

For hard-to-get dirt and other deposits, this type of cleaning should be done during the course of regular use. This step should be carried out in buildings every 6-12 months depending on the degree of using the space and method of ordinary cleaning.

TREATMENT

The floor is treated by creating a film on the surface that protects the covering, reduces the adhesion of impurities to it, and makes normal daily cleaning easier. For smooth or slightly structured surfaces, use CC-SG-Glossy hard protective layer (shiny surface) or CC-Secura-hard protective layer (silky matte finish) to create a protective layer.

Apply the undiluted product as an ordinary thin film in two layers; use three layers where the traffic is really heavy (supermarkets, shopping centers, etc.).

Use a flat mop or one with a special covering to apply. Cross-apply the protective coating. It's important to always allow one layer to sufficiently dry before applying the next one. After the last coat is applied and the surface is thoroughly dry (about 12 hours, preferably overnight), the floor can be used.

For special facilities where e.g. disinfectants are used (certain hospital wards, outpatient offices, etc.), CC-Medica-hard protective layer is good for treatment.

If the maximum coefficient of friction is necessary, it's possible to apply an anti-slip coating to the floor.

ORDINARY CLEANING AND CARE

Removal of dust:

For removing dust and other free impurities, wipe down with a good, wet mop. First, wipe away oil and other stains.

Manual or machine wet cleaning:

To remove clingy dirt, use CC-R 1000 cleaning product diluted with water to 1:200 and wipe down the surface by hand or using a machine. For tough cleaning involving grease or oil and abrasions from warehouse trucks (e.g. in industrial halls, workshops), cleaning needs to be done with a machine using CC-Active cleaning product R 280 or CC-Basic cleaning product R.

INTENSIVE INTERSTAGE CLEANING

If it's impossible to remove clinging dirt with ordinary cleaning, intensive interstage cleaning is recommended using a solution of Active detergent R280, diluted to 1:50 – 1:100 with water at a concentration suitable for the level of soiling in the area. Clean with the help of a brush or cleaning machine.

REMOVING STAINS AND MARKS FROM RUBBER HEELS

Stubborn stains and rubber marks from heels that cannot be cleaned by routine methods can be removed with the undiluted product PU-cleaner together with a cloth or soft pad made of microfibers. After cleaning, wash the area with water. Stains should be removed immediately if possible, because certain types of pigments can migrate into the layer of the floor after a certain time and trying to remove them then will be difficult or impossible.

⚠ WARNING

Some types of wheels and tires can leave behind stains in tiles over time. This is due to a chemical reaction between an antioxidant used in some rubbers and the plasticizer used in vinyl. Animal urine and feces cause tiles to fade. Also acids, e.g. in food products like tomato paste can cause tiles to fade. Therefore always remove chemical substances and stains as quickly as possible.

A brown stain/reaction is not so visible on certain colors of tile (dark grey, black, etc.). It generally applies that floors of various patterns and colors are less sensitive than solid colors, and muted colors are better than light colors.

We recommend that you consider using a two-component polyurethane sealing coat against stains and smears. Stains can develop on a floor from tires, hair dyes and other aggressive chemicals.

Please contact us and we will provide you with more information.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

SERIES: BUSINESS DECOR, SOLID DECOR

△ [FLOORING WITH A PU COATED LAYER]

△ When using a floor with a PUR-protective coating, it's necessary to protect the contact surfaces inside buildings with suitable protective means (e.g. textile pads under fixed-leg chairs, tables or PET boards under rolling chairs). Regular checks need to be made that these protective features are working and are regularly cleaned.

CLEANING AFTER INSTALLATION

A newly installed floor needs to be thoroughly cleaned prior to using in order to remove all remnants of production and installation impurities.

Use PU-cleaner diluted with water to 1:10 for this. For less visible dirt, this concentration can be reduced according to the degree of cleaning. Apply the cleaning solution evenly to the floor, allow it to work for about 10 minutes, then scrub the entire floor with a single-disc rotary machine with a brush or red pad. Vacuum up the dissolved dirt and thoroughly neutralize the entire floor with clean water until all remnants of the cleaning solution have been removed.

BASIC CLEANING

Basic cleaning is done when it's not possible to remove particularly stubborn dirt and deposits that undermine good visual appearance during normal or intensive cleaning.

For basic cleaning, use Basic Cleaner R in concentrations up to 1:5 with water. Apply the cleaning solution to the floor, allow it to work for about 10-15 minutes, then scrub the entire floor intensively with a single-disc rotary machine with a red pad. Vacuum up the dissolved dirt and thoroughly neutralize the entire floor with warm water if possible until the impurities and remnants of the cleaning solution have been completely removed (no more foam in the water!).

REGULAR CLEANING AND CARE

Removal of dust:

For removing dust and other free impurities, wipe down with a wet mop.

Manual or machine wet cleaning:

To remove clinging dirt, use a PU-cleaner diluted to 1: 200 with water and wipe down the surface using the appropriate mop or cleaning machine. In areas where it's necessary to carry out blanket disinfection of the area regularly, use CC-Disinfectant-concentrate.

INTENSIVE INTERSTAGE CLEANING

If it's impossible to remove clinging dirt with ordinary cleaning, interstage cleaning is recommended using a solution of water in a concentration suitable for the level of soiling in the area (e.g. 1:50 to 1:100). Clean with the help of a brush or cleaning machine (e.g. machine for washing hard surfaces) or with the spray method. For maintaining the optimal surface, the cleaned floor should be regularly polished with a single-disc rotary machine with a white pad or polishing brush.

PROACTIVE LONG-TERM PROTECTION / REMEDIATION

In order to maintain the long-term properties of a PU-treated surface, i.e. protective effect, reducing clinging dirt and simplifying daily cleaning, proactive long-term protection of PU-treated surfaces or the timely remediation of damaged areas is recommended.

After long-term usage, but no later than when the first worn areas begin to appear, a manufactured PU-coated surface should be renewed with a 2-component polyurethane topcoat.

Dr. Schutz, e.g. PU-Protective topcoat or PU-Anticolor (depending on the requirements for mechanical and chemical loads). These long-term coatings also have high resistance to disinfectants and chemicals. Their application must be carried out by professionally trained staff.

For an extensively worn manufactured PU-treatment, the PU-protective coat must be applied twice. Although each coat must be allowed to sufficiently dry before applying the next one (at least 2 hours), both coats must be applied on the same day.

TIPS ON HOW TO REMOVE STAINS

Stains from food or grease, chewing gum or rust can be removed with CC Elatex and CC Fleck & Weg. These are universal products for removing water-soluble and insoluble stains. Active oxygen also acts against color-intense stains like red wine, tea, fruit juice, etc. They are good for removing rubber marks and grooves from heels from elastic floorings.

REMOVING STAINS AND MARKS FROM RUBBER HEELS

Stubborn stains and scratches from rubber heels can be removed with an undiluted PU-cleaner using a cloth or soft, white pad. Afterwards, wash the area with clean water. If possible, you should immediately remove the stains because certain types of them will migrate into the surface over time, making the complete removal of them very difficult or impossible.

△ WARNING

Do not use any aggressive agents for ordinary cleaning (e.g. normal detergents, products containing abrasives, highly alkaline products with a pH higher than 10, products with a high content of solvents or degreasing substances).

Coloring products (e.g. hair dyes, disinfectants for wounds, etc.) and the migration of plasticizers (e.g. during the prolonged contact of an elastic floor with rubber) cause irreversible coloration of an elastic floor or protective layer (Warning: This does not apply for the polyurethane coating Dr. Schutz® PU-Anticolor).

If resistance to colorless disinfectants for hands and tools is specifically required in the building, we recommend carrying out tests with certain preparations. A natural change in color is possible but does not mean a change in the quality of the material.

PUR PROTECTIVE COATING

The current trend of all worldwide manufacturers of floor coverings (PVC, linoleum) is to use a PUR (polyurethane) protective coating. This is mainly because:

- it supersedes the first treatment of the surface of the floor covering after its application
- it significantly reduces maintenance costs

During manufacture, a thin film of polyurethane is applied to the surface of the floor covering to close up microscopic defects that make the surface susceptible to dirt. Dirt does not become "embedded", and proper cleaning, i.e. using only cleaning agents suitable for a floor with a PUR protective coating (e.g.: Dr. Schutz), will keep your floor in excellent condition.

This PUR protective coating is no replacement for the cleaning zone at room entrances.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2017

Roughening up the surface prior to applying permanent coatings (e.g. PU protective layer, PU Anticolor, PU Color) and hard protective layers (e.g. Secura, SG Shine, Medica) is crucial for subsequent adhesion.

Recommended for the best and most convenient systematic abrasion is Dr. Schutz PU gray floor pad. Developments in the flooring field and our own development in preparing floor surfaces have allowed us to refine our recommendations for the use of abrasives.

Since June 2017 we have recommend Dr. Schutz Abranet ACE as the best abrasive for smooth surfaces and Dr. Schutz Abranop extreme for structured surfaces. In comparison with a PU floor pad, both of these abrasives are more efficient and safer in use and have a longer lifetime. When using this abrasive, the tradesman has good control of wear. In addition, there is one more point in the "safe product" area: After micro-grinding, the surface of both old and newly laid floors without a removable manufactured finish must have a whitish, matte uniformity. For more information about the products and cleaning methods from Dr. Schutz, see the official manufacturer's information.

USE OF DISINFECTANTS AND SURFACE DISINFECTION

In rooms where disinfectants or surface disinfecting is used, it is necessary to comply with the user instructions provided by the manufacturer. Particularly with regard to the recommended concentration of the disinfectant, the user instructions and procedures.

Due to the large number of distributors and products in the field of disinfectants, it is not possible for Fortemix to try all products in terms of their effects on the surface of PVC floor coverings. In general terms, the use of only those products listed by the manufacturer as appropriate disinfectants for the surfaces of PVC floorings can be recommended. The use of inappropriate disinfectants

can cause undesirable effects on the mechanical-physical properties (coloring, softening or corroding) of the surface.

Because most disinfectants produce a protective film on the surface of the floor covering, some dirt can end up being "preserved" between the layers of disinfecting products. Therefore, we recommend doing a thorough cleaning at least once every 3-6 months to completely remove these old layers of disinfectants, stubborn dirt and other deposits.

RESISTANCE TO CHEMICALS

Vinyl floorings have an above-average resistance to weak acids, acid dilutions, alkalis, soaps and solvents. Diesel and strong acids are harmless if the stain is rinsed immediately. But ketones, chlorinated solvents, acetone or similar solvents must not come into contact with the floor. If this happens, the damage can be minimized by immediately rinsing it, and the remnants of these reagents must have time to evaporate before the surface of the floor can handle traffic again.

Vinyl floorings are good for use in most areas where chemicals are used, and where there is a risk of accidental spills. Be careful, some chemicals contain very strong dyes that even after a short

contact create stains on the floor. Where these types of chemicals are used, we recommend you use dark colors of vinyl in order to minimize the risk of creating stains.

Rubber products (mostly dark and dyed rubber –rubber wheels, equipment pads, shoe soles, etc.) in contact with a floor cause an indelible change of color in the wear layer, leading to the yellowing and blackening of the floor surface in places of contact with the rubber product. Burning and smoldering objects leave irremovable spots on the surface.

TYPE OF CHEMICALS	EFFECT	MEASURES
Aldehydes Esters Halogen hydrocarbons of ketones	The flooring gets attacked after a few minutes.	Immediately wipe it up.
Alcohols Ethers Glokols Hydrocarbons (aromatic and aliphatic) Kerosene Cooking oil	After a few days, a leak occurs in the plasticizers and this is accompanied by the material shrinking and becoming brittle.	Immediately wipe it up.
Weak acids and alkalis	No effect	
Strong alkalis	Damages the luster and can cause discoloration of some shades.	Dilute and remove.
Strong acids	Long contact can cause discoloration.	Immediately dilute and remove.
Dye (indicator)	Contact can cause discoloration.	Immediately dilute and remove.

NOTE: Chemical resistance is tested in contact with chemicals for 24 hours at a room temperature of 21°C, followed by rinsing with cold water. Some stains can be removed by grinding with a nylon cube.